

A.W. and Lavinia Rudolph House
210 Holmes Avenue
Llyswen Neighborhood
Altoona
Blair County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-5892

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PHOTOGRAPHS
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Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

A. W. AND LAVINIA RUDOLPH HOUSE

HABS No. PA-5892

Location: 210 Holmes Avenue

Date of Erection: 1904

Description: Another possibly Beezer-inspired design, this one-and-a-half-story, wood-frame cottage has horizontal wood siding on the first story and wood shingles above. Its steep, side-gable roof has no overhang at the gable ends and no eave at the rear of the house, but flares out at the front to cover a full-width porch supported by simple boxed columns. The house's main ornaments are the wide, hipped gable at the front and a small, diamond-paned bay window on the west side, toward Ruskin Drive (formerly Duncansville Road). The house faces the right-of-way for Holmes Avenue, which was never completed west of Wordsworth Avenue. The houses at 206 Holmes Ave. and 201 Ruskin Dr. are also oriented toward this nonexistent avenue.

History: Dorothea Rudolph bought lots 8 and 15 of block 16, fronting on a proposed western extension of Holmes Avenue to Duncansville Road, for \$575 in 1903 from the Altoona Suburban Home Company. Less than a year later, she sold the western portion of lot 15 to her son A. W., a clerk for Patrick W. Finn, and his wife, Lavinia, for \$500. This house was built by April 1905, when the Rudolfs sold it for \$3,100 to Harry DeViney, one of the proprietors of the Hotel Carlton on 11th Avenue, and moved to Pittsburgh. In 1906 they returned and purchased the property back from the DeVineys for the same amount. The 1906-07 city directory lists A. W. Rudolph as a contractor, living at Holmes and Duncansville avenues. Philip R. Arnold, an electrical contractor, bought the house in 1909 and sold it three years later to Ernest K. Post, supervisor of signals for the PRR. Post and his family lived at 210 Holmes for eight years. In 1920 John Williams, a traveling salesman, and his wife, Rosa, bought the house and made it their home until 1937, when the Blair County sheriff conveyed it to Berks County Trust Company for \$277.21. James and Grace Thompson acquired the property in 1941 for \$4,250. He died in 1970, and after her death in 1985 the executor of her estate sold the house to the present owner.

Sources: Sanborns: 1920, 1932, 1951. Deed books: 143/428; 151/80; 154/583; 157/534; 157/536; 165/156; 191/568; 211/144; 274/49; 434/60; 459/693; 1127/754. City directories.

Project Information: This report was part of a larger project to document the city of Altoona, Pennsylvania. The project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER), Robert Kapsch, chief, at the request of America's Industrial Heritage Project (AIHP), Randy Cooley, director. An overview of the history of the city (HABS No. PA-5784) and an overview of Llysven (HABS No. PA-5787) provide context for these buildings as well as a comprehensive list of sources. See also additional HABS reports on buildings in the city and other neighborhoods.

This report was prepared by Kathy Edwards in the summer of 1989 under the supervision of Alison K. Hoagland, HABS historian, and Kim E. Wallace, supervisory historian. Edwards's and other project historians' work was published as Railroad City: Four Historic Neighborhoods in Altoona, Pennsylvania (Washington, D.C.: HABS/HAER, National Park Service, 1990), edited by Kim E. Wallace, supervisory historian, and Sara Amy Leach, HABS historian.